

REMARKS

Claims 1, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45 and 47-56 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,197,786 and 6,586,448. The rejection states that although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims have significant overlap. The rejection states that claim 1 is obvious over claim 1 of '786. The rejection also states that claim 39 is obvious over claim 1 of '448. The rejection also states that claims 41 and 42 are obvious over claims 3 and 6 respectively of '448. The rejection also states that claims 44 and 45 are obvious over claims 8 and 11 of '448. The rejection also states that claims 47-56 are obvious over claims 5, 9 and 14 of '448.

Applicants have herein cancelled claim 1 thus obviating the rejection over U.S. patent No. 6,197,786.

Applicants submit that an obvious rejection under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,586,448 (the patent that issued from the immediately preceding parent application) is unwarranted for the instant application. This application claims priority from the parent application and accordingly has the same normal expiration date as U.S. Patent no. 6,586,448. Therefore, there is no unjustified or improper timewise extension.

Applicants urge that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-1445. Two copies of this sheet are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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